

AD-INTERIM REPORT

OF THE

INSPECTORS OF IRISH FISHERIES

ON THE

MACKEREL FISHING OFF THE COAST OF IRELAND DURING THE SPRING OF 1893.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.



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DUBLIN CASTLE,

12th September, 1893.

GENTLEMEN,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of this date, forwarding, for submission to His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, your Report on the Mackerel Fishing off the Coast of Ireland during the Spring of 1893.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant

D. HARREL.

The Inspectors of Fisheries.

AD-INTERIM REPORT
OF THE
INSPECTORS OF IRISH FISHERIES
ON THE
MACKEREL FISHING OFF THE COAST OF IRELAND DURING THE
SPRING OF 1893.

TO HIS EXCELLENCY ROBERT OFFLEY ASHBURTON,
BARON HOUGHTON, K.P., P.C.,

Esq., &c., &c., &c.,

LORD LIEUTENANT-GENERAL AND GENERAL GOVERNOR OF IRELAND.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,

We have the honour to submit our Report on the Mackerel Fishing off the Coast of Ireland during the Spring of 1893.

The spring fishing of 1893 presents some points of special interest. The weather was exceptionally fine, so that it was possible for boats on the west of Ireland to fish every night while the season lasted; but on the south coast the excessively calm weather proved a disadvantage on many occasions, and over-day fish were not uncommon.

Though the month preceding the mackerel season was much warmer than the corresponding month last year, the sea temperature showed but little advance in comparison. On the west coast it attained 50° only 48 hours earlier than in 1892, and the main fishing by large boats on the south and west opened on the 4th of April instead of on the 6th, as in 1892. Previous to this date some mackerel were caught, chiefly by canoes and row boats.

Lent was over before the fishing began, and the Easter holidays, with their usual market depressions, influenced the opening prices. The amount of fish captured in April being more than twice as great as that caught in the same month of 1892 also depressed prices in that portion of the season when high prices might have been expected.

The boats engaged to buyers at contract prices consequently came off better, as a rule, than those depending on the open market; and in some cases realized large sums.

The English buyers, with very few exceptions, formed themselves into a syndicate, and contracted with a large number of boats, which fished for them from Castletownsend to the Arran Islands.

Three Manx co-operative associations also fished in Kinsale, Castletownsend, Crookhaven, and Fenit; and sent their own fish to English markets. Fish from the Arran Islands was similarly disposed of by the agent of the Congested Districts Board.

The fishery on the west coast was remarkably good—Fenit being the port from which the largest amount was despatched, and where most money was made by individual boats.

The amount of fish despatched by railway far exceeded the amount thus despatched in former years. This was owing chiefly to the fact that nearly all the Arran Island fish, and a large proportion of that landed at Fenit, were sent *via* Dublin. The amount was so great that not only were special trains necessary, but the London and North Western Co. had to put on special steamers at the North Wall Station. Complaints were made that serious delays occurred at Holyhead. The railway officials, however, made great efforts to get the fish through, quickly; and no doubt greater facilities will be provided next season. At Galway, the Midland Great Western Railway Company made new sidings to the dock, so as to facilitate the landing of fish. Since the close of the spring fishing two new lines of railway, touching deep water, have been opened, viz., one to Valencia in Kerry, and one to Killybegs in Donegal. The former will no doubt be availed of; and although the spring mackerel fishing has not been yet attempted so far north as Donegal Bay (except by a few canoes on the Mayo coast), Killybegs may yet become a port for despatch.

While noting the successful season of 1893 on the west coast, it is to be regretted that the fishing at the old centres of the trade on the south coast was not what might have been expected. Calm weather, and the small size of the fish captured, had much to say to the failure; and many boats in the large fleets which worked from Kinsale and Baltimore had to return home without paying their expenses.

It may here be well to remark that no general conclusion should be drawn from such an exceptional year's fishing. The weather on the west coast was, as has been stated, unusually fine; and, when plans for next season are being formed, this must be borne in mind, as should also the migrations of fish which, although certain in some ways, are in other respects as uncertain as the weather.

The total number of boxes, of about 60 fish each, captured amounted to 235,648 and the total value to £105,816. This would give an average all round of 9s. per box.

The following number of boats attended the Spring fishing :—English, 37 ; Scotch, 9 ; Manx, 230 ; French, 93 ; Irish, 1st class, 233.
2nd " 60.
3rd " 809 (including currages).

We append a Table showing particulars of the fishing carried on at the different places round the coast.

All of which we beg respectfully to submit to Your Excellency.

ALAN HORNSBY, } *Inspectors*
WM SPOTSWOOD GREEN, } *of*
CECIL R. ROCHE, } *Irish Fisheries.*

FISHERIES OFFICE.

DUBLIN CASTLE.

11th September, 1893.

SPRING MACKEREL FISHING, 1893.

FISHING, 1893.

AT OR NEAR THE FOLLOWING PLACES.

subject to correction in the Annual Report.)

Quantity of Fish landed, boxes of 60 Fish	Total value.	Average Price per box (according to total catches and total value).	Markets or Places to which Fish was forwarded.	No. of Boatsmen employed carrying Fish to England.	No. of Ice Boats employed.	Observations.
	£					
117	35	3s. 5d.	Millers and Cork, . . .	-	-	No harbour dues.
415	75	3s. 3d.	Sold locally, . . .	-	-	Harbour dues, one-eighth of a penny per register ton; ad. if landed at Deep-water Quay.
22,126	15,061	5s. 10d.	Millers and Fleetwood, . . .	18	3	Harbour dues of 10s. per boat, payable during season.
-	-	-	-	-	-	No harbour dues. 500 boxes taken here landed elsewhere.
26	12	6s. 8d.	Highmore, Drummanway, Ban- don, &c.	-	-	No harbour dues.
20,129	5,583	1s. 4d.	Millers, Fleetwood, Baltimore, Cork, and Dublin.	6	4	No harbour dues, but subventions paid voluntarily for maintenance of the pier during season.
22,570	6,264	8s. 6d.	Millers, Birmingham, London, and Killybegs.	12	4	Harbour dues, 10s. per boat per annum, payable at any time during the season.
22,624	11,873	10s. 3d.	Millers and Fleetwood, . . .	7	4	No harbour dues.
22,625	2,000	10s. 6d.	Millers, . . .	5	3	do.
5,524	5,512	10s. 1d.	Coblenzton Dock, . . .	-	-	do.
2,712	2,663	10s. 2d.	do., . . .	-	-	do.
35	12	1s. 3d.	Swan, . . .	-	-	do.
1,074	243	4s. 6d.	Coblenzton, . . .	-	-	do.
124	45	5s. 6d.	do., . . .	-	-	do.
1,277	222	2s. 2d.	Manchester, . . .	-	-	do.
422	279	8s. 2d.	Bays of Bally and Arran Islands.	-	-	do.
5,822	1,865	7s. 3d.	Birmingham, Liverpool, and Manchester.	-	-	Harbour dues (10s. 6d. per year) not paid.
160	30	7s. 2d.	Coblenzton and Dingle, . . .	-	-	No harbour dues.
4,845	1,522	7s. 8d.	Liverpool, Manchester, Birmingham, and Dublin.	-	1	Harbour dues, 10s. per boat, at end of season.
10,225	2,726	3s. 6d.	Manchester, &c., via Millers, and Holyhead.	12	6	No harbour dues paid.
4,712	2,601	10s. 3d.	English Markets, . . .	-	-	No harbour dues.
2,026	1,796	10s. 3d.	English Markets, . . .	-	-	do.
2,026	2,586	10s. 4d.	Dublin and Limerick, . . .	-	-	Harbour dues not paid.
27,222	12,712	10s. 6d.	Liverpool, Manchester, and Millers.	2	4	Harbour dues, 10s. if paid at beginning of season, or 1s. 6d. each time of landing in the pier.
602	207	8s. 9d.	Carrageh, Killybegs, Killybegs, and Dublin.	-	-	Harbour dues not paid.
1,365	222	5s. 6d.	Carrageh and Killybegs, . . .	-	-	-
272	65	6s. 5d.	Dublin, . . .	-	-	-
224	82	6s. 5d.	Sold locally, . . .	-	-	No harbour dues.
222	122	6s. 6d.	Killybegs and Killybegs, . . .	-	-	do.
22	36	6s. 5d.	Sold locally, . . .	-	-	Harbour dues not paid.
22	16	6s. 5d.	Killybegs and Killybegs, . . .	-	-	do.
123,224	2,222	1s. 10d.	Galway and Millers, . . .	2	2	No harbour dues.
22	12	6s. 10d.	Sold locally, . . .	-	-	do.
222	122	6s.	Killybegs, Dublin, Killybegs, and Killybegs.	-	-	do.
122	22	6s.	Killybegs, Dublin, Killybegs, and Killybegs.	-	-	do.

* Includes 62 boxes, the value of which could not be ascertained, and which is, therefore, not included in "Total Value" column.

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